

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 00458 301734Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 /100 W
-----301745Z 083080 /53

O R 301050Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1256
INFO/RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 7240
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/ PINT, PFOR, PK, US
SUBJECT: CONSPIRACY CHARGE: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY: PRO-GOVERNMENT PAKISTAN TIMES APRIL 30 CARRIED
VARIOUS ARTICLES, STORIES AND AN EDITORIAL SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL
CONSPIRACY CHARGE LEVELED AGAINST U.S. BY BHUTTO IN SPEECH
TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. COVERAGE SUGGESTS WELL ORCHESTRATED
ANTI-AMERICAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN. INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT
EVOKED SCEPTICISM, ASKING FOR EVIDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. PAKISTAN TIMES LEFT OFF APRIL 30 WITH EDITORIAL "CONSPIRACY
AGAINST PAKISTAN" BACKING BHUTTO'S CHARGE THAT PAKISTAN IS
TARGET OF INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY DESIGNED TO REMOVE HIM
FROM OFFICE. EDITORIAL STATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE
INFLOW OF FOREIGN MONEY AND INFILTRATION OF ARMS. U.S.
IS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT INFERENCE IS UNMISTAKABLE.
TIMES CALLED ON ALL PATRIOTIC CITIZENS TO LEND SUPPORT TO
BHUTTO "IN HIS VALIANT STRUGGLE TO COUNTER CONSPIRATORS
AT HOME AND ABROAD."

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3.
FRONT PAGE HEADLINE STORY "DOLLAR INTERVENTION INVOKES
INDIGANTION" REPORTED THAT BHUTTO'S SPEECH WAS HAILED IN
LAHORE AS "FIRST EVER STATEMENT SINCE PAKISTAN'S INCEPTION
EXPOSING REAL FOREIGN DESIGNS TO PREVENT COUNTRY FROM GOING
INDEPENDENT IN TRUEST SENSE." ACCORDING STORY, VARIOUS

PUBLIC LEADERS EXPRESSED SHOCK AND INDIGNATION OVER DOLLAR INTERVENTION, CLAIMING PM'S SPEECH "OPENED EYES OF PAKISTANI PEOPLE." PRESS STATEMENTS COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON SPEECH BY VARIOUS PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS PAK-KOREA (DPRK) FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, PAKISTAN ORGANIZATION FOR AFRO"ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY AND A NUMBER OF TRADE UNION LEADERS WERE LIBERALLY QUOTED. U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS SPECIFICALLY NOTED BY LEFT WING AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY GROUP. UNITED FRONT OF RICKSHAW/TAXI DRIVERS' UNION STATED IT WAS PREPARED TO FRUSTRATE ALL ELEPHANTS. STATE DEPARTMENT DENIAL WAS CARRIED BOTTOM RIGHT FRONT PAGE IN THREE INCH COLUMN HEADLINED "U.S. DENIES HAND IN CONSPIRACY."

4. SEPARATE MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO BY PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER SADIQ HUSSAIN QURESHI APPEARED ON BACK PAGE IN WHICH QURESHI SAID TRUE NATURE OF PNA AGITATION HAS BEEN REVEALED. FOREIGN ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO BHUTTO, HE STATED, WERE TRYING TO SUBVERT CONSTITUTION AND BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT THROUGH UNLAWFUL AND ILLEGAL MEANS. SUCH EVIL DESIGNS COULD ONLY BE THWARTED IF PEOPLE FORGOT DIFFERENCES AND UNITED AROUND PM.

5. SEPARATE STORY OF BACK PAGE HEADLINED "BBC WORKS FOR U.K. INTELLIGENCE" QUOTED SOVIET MAGAZINE NEW TIMES ARTICLE CHARGING THAT BBC IS A BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ORGAN. UNSIGNED FEATURE ARTICLE ON EDITORIAL PAGE ENTITLED "THE ELEPHANT MEDIA" SUGGESTS THAT SOME FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN PAKISTAN ARE CIA AGENTS. BBC AND VOA,(ARTICL ASSERTS, ARE TOOLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

6. SAFDAR MIR (ZENO), PAK TIMES' PRO-SOVIET COLUMNIST, CALLED BHUTTO'S SPEECH ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF HIS CAREER AS A NATIONAL LEADER AND WORLD STATESMAN. IN ARTICLE ON EDITORIAL PAGE ENTITLED "THE HAND BEHIND CONSPIRACIES," HE HIGHLIGHTED BHUTTO'S POSITION ON VIETNAM, THE MIDDLE EAST, THIRD WORLD, CHINA RECOGNITION, ISLAMIC SUMMIT AND NUCLEAR REPROCESSING, WHICH HE CLAIMS LEAD IMPERIALISTS TO CONSPIRE AGAINST HIM. MIR OPINED THAT SPEECH WAS RESPONSE TO A SITUATION THAT COULD LEAD TO A MOMENTOUS CHANGE IN ALIGNMENT OF FORECES IN REGION.

7 INDEPENDENT URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT QUESTIONED BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS IN APRIL 30 EDITORIAL AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE. IT CARRIED STATEMENT DENIAL, WHICH SEVERAL OTHER URDU PAPERS ALSO DID.
GAMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, SPEECHES, ALLEGATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAHORE00458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-0501
Format: TEL
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977042/aaaaaaxf.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c951c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2694091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSPIRACY CHARGE: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, US, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c951c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009